
MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:

Thursday, June 8, 2006

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Should Virginia Regulate Auto Body Repair?

*Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation invites
public comment, hosts regional hearings*

RICHMOND – The Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation will host regional public hearings to solicit comment on the auto body repair industry. In response to a legislative request, the Board is reviewing whether Virginia should regulate auto body repair technicians and/or facilities.

The Board is authorized by statute to assess the need to regulate professions and occupations in the Commonwealth. In determining the appropriate level of regulation, the Board must determine the extent to which an unregulated service poses a hazard to the public's health, safety or welfare. [*Code of Virginia* §54.1-310(6), §54.1-311]

Public hearings are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

RICHMOND

Wednesday, June 28th at 10:00 a.m.

Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
3600 West Broad Street, 5th Floor West Conference Room

ARLINGTON

Friday, June 30th at 10:00 a.m.

Arlington County Government Center
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Room 307

HAMPTON

Tuesday, July 11th at 10:00 a.m.

City of Hampton Council Chambers
22 Lincoln Street, 8th Floor

ROANOKE

Thursday, July 13th at 10:00 a.m.

Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building
215 Church Avenue, SW, 4th Floor

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Individuals requiring interpreter services or other special accommodations should contact the Department at (804) 367-8514/TDD (804) 367-9753 at least seven days prior to the meeting. The Department complies fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The 60-day public comment period begins June 26, 2006, and ends August 25, 2006. To submit comments in writing, e-mail bpor@dpur.virginia.gov or mail to:

Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation
Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
3600 West Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23230

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About DPOR and the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation:

The Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation is responsible for directing regulatory policy, research, and analysis; administering the regulatory system for professions and occupations approved by the legislature; monitoring the state's regulatory climate; and conducting studies as directed by the General Assembly.

The Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) oversees the administrative functions of the Board and provides staff support. The agency licenses or certifies more than 300,000 individuals and businesses in nearly 40 occupations and professions ranging from architects and contractors to cosmetologists and real estate agents.

DPOR investigates reports of regulatory violations by licensees; pursues complaints of criminal activity by unlicensed practitioners; responds to business-related consumer inquiries and requests for license checks; administers recovery funds for consumers harmed in contractor or real estate transactions; and conducts mediation services and public awareness campaigns.

For more information, visit DPOR online at www.dpor.virginia.gov.